



# Nez Perce County

October 2008

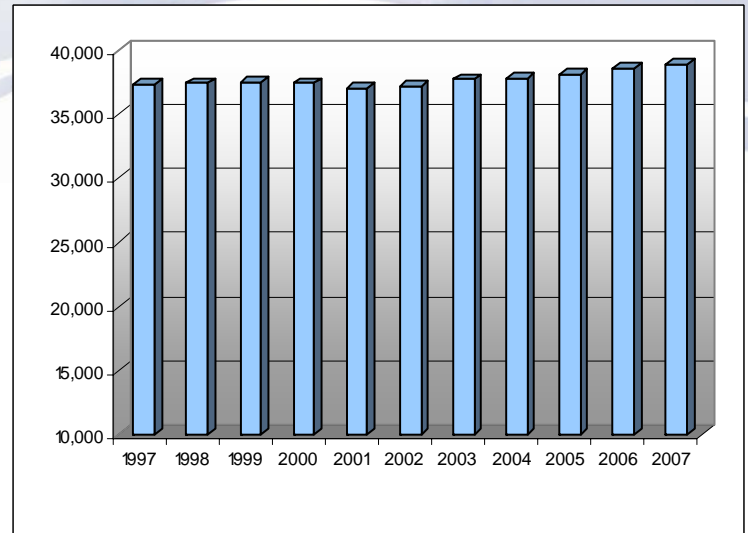
## Work Force Trends

### Population

Nez Perce County's population grew 4 percent from 37,375 in 1997 to 38,932 in 2007, while the U.S. population grew 11 percent and Idaho's population grew 22 percent. Slow job growth reduced migration into the county, while an aging population reduced the birth rate.

Nez Perce is closely tied to Asotin County, Washington. Many Asotin County residents, especially Clarkston residents, work in Lewiston. Asotin County's population grew at roughly the same rate as Nez Perce County's, growing 3 percent from 20,499 to 21,111.

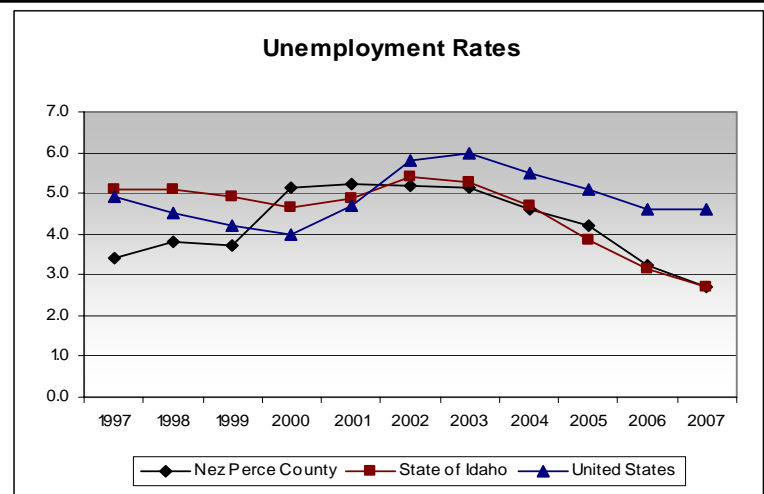
The Nez Perce County seat, Lewiston, has a population of 31,800. The population of the other incorporated cities are: Lapwai, 1,120; Culdesac, 380; and Peck, 190.



### Labor Force & Employment

Nez Perce County is a regional hub for retail, health care, media, government and transportation. Lewiston has the only airport offering regular passenger service in North Central Idaho, and is Idaho's only seaport; barges regularly travel from Lewiston onto the Columbia to the ocean. Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis counties in Idaho and Asotin and Columbia counties in Washington tend to rely on the Lewiston area for goods and services they can't find locally. Lewiston is also home to Lewis-Clark State College, a four-year school also offering one-year and two-year professional-technical training programs. Its spring 2008 enrollment is 3,343 students. In addition, many residents of neighboring counties work in the Lewiston area.

Nez Perce County's largest employer is Potlatch Corp., which employs 2,100 people making paper tissue, paperboard and lumber in Lewiston. ATK's bullet factory

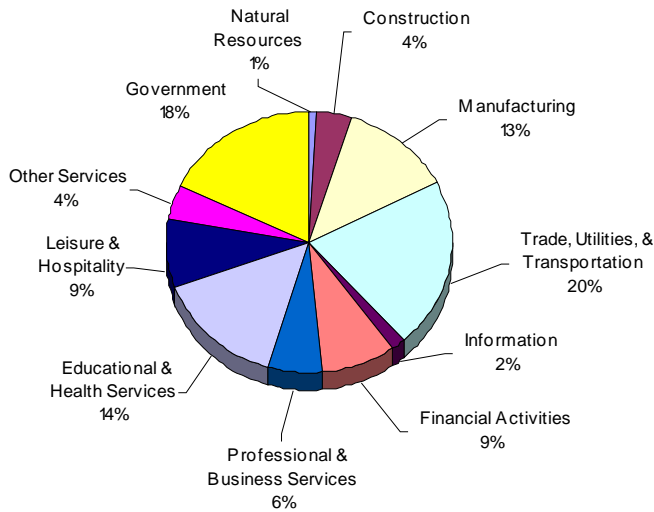


in Lewiston employs more than 900 employees, while St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, the heart of Lewiston's bustling medical community employs nearly 900. About 740 people work at Regence BlueShield's insurance center in Lewiston. Lewis-Clark State College employs about 600 people. The Nez Perce Tribe employs 500 people at its headquarters and various services in Lapwai and another 200-plus people at its casino and resort near Lewiston. Jet boat manufacturers in the Lewiston-Clarkston area employ 140 people. The tourism industry has grown during the last few years.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	18,903	18,093
Total Employment	18,403	17,371
Unemployed	500	722
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	4.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	23,123	23,707	23,393	18,608	19,610	19,366	19,167	18,837	19,179	18,872	18,739
Unemployment	785	901	870	955	1,024	1,002	988	870	809	611	511
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.8	3.7	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.6	4.2	3.2	2.7
Employment	22,338	22,806	22,523	17,653	18,585	18,364	18,179	17,967	18,370	18,261	18,228

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Employers and Wages

Valley Vision is a nonprofit organization fostering the economic development of the Lewis-Clark Valley. Valley Vision concentrates its recruiting efforts on projects that contribute to economic diversification and increase household earnings.

Another major player in economic development is the 3,500-member Nez Perce Tribe, headquartered in Lapwai. The tribe also plays a role in development of Clearwater and Lewis Counties.

### Major Employers

ATK (ammunition manufacturer)
City of Lewiston
Lewis-Clark State College
Lewiston Independent School District 1
Nez Perce County
Nez Perce Tribe (including casino resort)
Potlatch Corp. (paper & forest products)
Regence BlueShield (insurance)
St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center
Swift Transportation Company
Tribune Publishing Co.
Wal-Mart

### Occupational Wages\*

	Starting Pay
Accountants	\$16.75
Assemblers	\$9.00
Bookkeepers	\$8.50
Carpenters, Journey-Level	\$15.20
Cashiers	\$7.20
Computer Technicians	\$14.75
Customer Service Representatives	\$8.80
Dental & Health Care Assistants	\$10.40
Janitors	\$8.50
Nurses, Registered	\$19.00
Salespersons, Retail	\$7.40
Secretaries	\$10.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$14.50

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	20,053	\$25,314	20,759	\$31,598	21,100	\$32,957
<b>Agriculture</b>	231	\$31,761	202	\$41,373	200	\$46,562
<b>Mining</b>	195	\$25,342	105	\$47,738	112	\$49,807
<b>Construction</b>	806	\$27,309	886	\$35,012	852	\$37,127
<b>Manufacturing</b>	3,125	\$37,801	2,623	\$43,273	2,793	\$44,299
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	4,379	\$20,339	4,458	\$28,829	4,587	\$29,655
<b>Information</b>	303	\$20,933	397	\$26,358	384	\$27,333
<b>Financial Activities</b>	1,251	\$25,976	1,395	\$34,609	1,517	\$35,786
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	1,225	\$38,570	1,332	\$44,721	1,336	\$47,309
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	2,521	\$26,109	3,309	\$29,032	3,195	\$31,337
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	1,842	\$9,105	1,776	\$12,181	1,839	\$12,478
<b>Other Services</b>	759	\$15,114	577	\$19,395	558	\$20,111
<b>Government</b>	2,801	\$26,298	3,702	\$33,067	3,726	\$34,030

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Nez Perce County</b>	\$21,974	\$23,104	\$23,867	\$24,891	\$25,724	\$25,509	\$26,103	\$27,470	\$28,053	\$29,405
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
Idaho Department of Labor  
1158 Idaho St.  
Lewiston, ID 83501 Ph: (208) 799-5000

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

This publication is produced by Idaho Department of Labor funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.  
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